

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

The sort of cronyism evident in Sinclair's choice to forcibly broadcast GOP propaganda should be stopped. According to the constitution, the media cannot be under the government's control. In addition, the broadcast of "Stolen Honor" violates several different campaign laws. What sort of example of democracy are we setting when the party in power controls the nation's airwaves? This abuse harkens back to the Soviet era in Russia.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. For the sake of democracy, please halt the broadcasts. Thank you.